

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 10878

FOR MAYNES FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN
SUBJECT: UNGA STRATEGY

REF: STATE 174516

1. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PORTIONS OF THE DRAFT SCOPE PAPER FOR THE 33RD UNGA.

2. PARAGRAPH TWO: THE FINAL PHRASE OF PARAGRAPH TWO PERTAINING TO HUMAN RIGHTS PRESENTS THE QUESTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CIVIL/POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC/SOCIAL/CULTURAL RIGHTS IN A NEGATIVE SENSE AND COULD BE MISINTERPRETED AS IMPLYING THAT THE US SEES THESE TWO SETS OF RIGHTS IN AN ADVERSARY OR COMPETING RELATIONSHIP. US POLICY STATEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT WE GIVE EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO ALL RIGHTS AS EVIDENCED BY OUR SIGNATURE OF BOTH COVENANTS AND THAT THE TWO SETS OF RIGHTS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN TERMS OF ONE VERSUS THE OTHER.

3. A MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM WILL BE PROBABLE ATTEMPTS TO DOWNGRADE THE SIGNIFICANCE AND RELEVANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS DATED, REFLECTS THE VIEWS OF ONLY THE 50 SOME UN MEMBERS AT THE TIME OF ADOPTION.
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TION AND IS NO LONGER SIGNIFICANT, IN VIEW OF THE ENTRY INTO EFFECT OF THE TWO COVENANTS.

4. WE WOULD SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING RE-PHRASING OF PARA. 2:
QUOTE: FINALLY THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH WILL PRESENT US WITH THE CHALLENGE OF

MAINTAINING A UNIVERSAL COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DECLARATION WHILE PROMOTING A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC/SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AS WELL AS CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

5. PARAGRAPH SEVEN - HUMAN RIGHTS: WE WOULD PREFER A SHIFT IN OBJECTIVES ONE AND THREE AWAY FROM AN APPARENT EMPHASIS ON INDIVIDUAL CASES SUCH AS UGANDA AND CAMBODIA AND TOWARDS PROMOTION OF MORE CONSENSUS-ORIENTED PROGRAMS AND GOALS. OUR SUCCESS TO DATE IN THE CASES OF UGANDA AND CAMBODIA HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN WHICH THE ATMOSPHERE IS MORE CONDUCIVE TO BOLD ACTION THAN THE UNPREDICTABLE AND VOLATILE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THESE TWO CASES ARE CURRENTLY THE OBJECT OF ACTION IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND WE SHOULD NOT RISK UPSETTING THIS PROCESS BY SEEKING ANY GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION AT THIS TIME OR EVEN TRUMPETING TOO LOUDLY THE ACTIONS OF THE HRC IN THESE CASES. WE REGARD THE SECOND OBJECTIVE AS NOT PARTICULARLY RELEVANT AS A MAJOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY OBJECTIVE AS IT IS ORIENTED TOWARDS DOMESTIC US ACTION RATHER THAN TOWARDS ANY ACTIVITY OR INITIATIVE IN WHICH TO ENGAGE OTHER DELEGATIONS. WE COULD, OF COURSE, APPROPRIATELY POINT TO OUR INTENTIONS OR ACTIONS IN THIS RESPECT IN STATEMENTS AT THE GA.

6. AS ALTERNATIVE OBJECTIVES WE WOULD PREFER
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EMPHASIS IN THE FIRST PLACE ON CONTINUING THE SEARCH FOR A CONSENSUS ON ECONOMIC/SOCIAL/CULTURAL RIGHTS. THE DISCUSSION IN PARA. NINE REFTEL OF A RESTATEMENT OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS POLICY AND A LINK TO A "RIGHT TO ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS" FITS IN WITH THIS SUGGESTION. IN VIEW OF THE RECENT DECISION BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION ON WORLD HUNGER WE COULD DEMONSTRATE THE INTER-RELATION OF DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH AN INITIATIVE PERTAINING TO THE RIGHT TO FOOD OR SOME OTHER RELATED TOPIC.

7. WE AGREE THAT A KEY OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION. AN IMPORTANT BENEFIT WILL BE, OF COURSE, TO RAISE PUBLIC INTEREST IN RATIFICATION OF THE GENOCIDE TREATY AS WELL AS THE TWO COVENANTS. HOWEVER, THE MAIN GOAL SHOULD BE TO PROMOTE AN INCREASE IN UN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITY AND AN EXPANDED AND STRENGTHENED SECRETARIAT UNIT. EXPANSION OF THE SECRETARIAT CANNOT FULLY BE PURSUED IN ISOLATION BUT AS A COROLLARY TO NEW OR EXPANDED PROGRAMS. IN THIS SENSE, THERE IS ROOM FOR EXPANSION OF SUCH ACTIVITIES AS ADVISORY SERVICES, SEMINARS

OR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS. IF THERE ARE FUNDS AVAILABLE, THE
US COULD ANNOUNCE A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR FELLOWSHIPS OR
SCHOLARSHIPS, EITHER FOR SPECIAL GROUPS SUCH AS NAMIBIANS

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FOR MAYNES FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG

OR FOR RESEARCH ON PARTICULAR SUBJECTS, OR PROMOTE AN
INITIATIVE TO EXPAND THE FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM.

8. FINALLY WE AGREE WITH THE NEED TO PROTECT CURRENT UN
HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY AND AVOID PERMANENT SIDETRACKING OF
SUCH PROPOSALS AS THE CREATION OF A UN HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. WITH REGARD TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
PROPOSAL, WE HOPE TO CONTINUE AND PROMOTE DISCUSSION OF
THE IDEA, BUT AT THE SAME TIME MAKE CLEAR THAT WE WILL NOT
PUSH FOR ACTION ON ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS THIS YEAR.

ECONOMIC ASPECTS:

9. BUDGET POLICY: PARA 4 SUGGESTS USG PREPARED TO SUPPORT
"A BROAD SPECTRUM PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AS-
SISTANCE FOR NAMIBIA" FROM REGULAR REPEAT REGULAR UN
BUDGET. DOES THIS REPRESENT MAJOR DEPARTURE FROM LONG-
STANDING US POSITION?

10. AREAS FOR THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE: THERE SEEMS
TO BE SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHICH ARE MOST FRUITFUL AREAS
FOR NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. PARA. 4 MENTIONS "TRADE, FOOD
AND ENERGY," PARA. 5 NOTES "THE ONLY PROMISING CANDIDATE"
FOR A "BREAKTHROUGH" IS THE COMMON FUND, AND PARA. 9 SPEAKS
OF "TRADE AND AID" (CONSISTENT WITH COOPER MEMO TO THE
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PRESIDENT). THERE IS NO DOUBT AS TO SYMBOLIC VALUE OF A COMMON FUND BREAKTHROUGH AND WE HOPE THAT INDICATIONS OF MOVEMENT ON OUR PART WILL NOT BE TOO LONG DELAYED FOR "TACTICAL" PURPOSES. BUT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR "BREAKTHROUGHS" ELSEWHERE AS WELL. TRADE, AID, FOOD AND ENERGY SHOULD ALL BE EXPLORED. WE FURTHER SUGGEST URGENT ATTENTION ALSO BE GIVEN TO QUESTION OF ENHANCING INVESTMENT FLOWS, THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF COFINANCING MECHANISMS, MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT INSURANCE, AND ENHANCED ACCESS TO CAPITAL MARKETS (INCLUDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE). TRANSFER OF RESOURCES WILL BE ON THE AGENDA OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN SEPTEMBER AND, IF OUR PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED, AGAIN AT SOME LATER TIME. DIM PROSPECTS FOR AID BILL SUGGEST INVESTMENT AS BEST POSSIBLE "CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH" IN THIS AREA.

11. BASIC HUMAN NEEDS (BHN). WE STRONGLY AGREE THAT A MORE ACCEPTABLE PRESENTATION OF BHN IS NECESSARY. WE SUGGEST THAT WOULD BE AN APPROACH LINKING BHN CLOSELY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. "HUMAN RESOURCES" IS ONE SUCH APPROACH; LINK BETWEEN ELIMINATING HUNGER (FOOD SECURITY) AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IS ANOTHER. IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT AMB. YOUNG REFERRED TO HOUSE LANGUAGE IN ECOSOC SPEECH. (WE ALSO NOTE THAT HOUSE LANGUAGE REFERS TO "DEVELOPING COUNTRIES", NOT "LEAST DEVELOPED"). IF THERE IS A HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECT, IT WOULD BE THE RIGHT "TO THE FRUITS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS". WHAT IS IMPORTANT HERE IS TO CONCENTRATE ON THOSE ASPECTS OF BHN WHICH ARE MOST CLOSELY RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT ("CLEAN WATER" FOR EXAMPLE, IS TOO FAR REMOVED FROM THIS CRITERION.), AND TO BE SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE AS NOT TO PRECLUDE ASPECTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE AS WELL (AS IN AFRICAN TRANSPORT DECADE.). VANDEN HEUVEL

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